

Appl. No. 09/657,956
Filed 9/8/2000

Atty Docket JP920000170US1

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A method of accrediting participants to an event, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) collecting information from each of said participants;
 - b) recording the information in an accreditation system;
 - c) producing a non-valid pass for each of said participants;
 - d) issuing the respective non-valid passes to said participants; and
 - e) upon arrival of such a participant at, or proximate an event venue, validating said non-valid pass for the participant, thereby accrediting said participant, wherein step e) includes the steps of:
 - updating an accreditation status of the participant in the accreditation system; and
 - securing the pass in a security pouch.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of:
upon arrival of such a participant, verifying information of said participant before said non-valid pass is validated.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, comprising the further steps of:
for foreign participants and before arrival of participants, sending a bulk visa request to an Immigration Authority; and
receiving a visa status from said Immigration Authority, allowing said validated pass to serve as a visa.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, comprising the further steps of:
ascribing an accreditation class to each of said participants; and
ascribing privileges to each of said accreditation classes.

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5. (previously presented) Apparatus for accrediting participants to an event, said apparatus comprising:

- means for collecting information from each of said participants;
- means for recording the information in an accreditation system;
- producing means for producing a non-valid pass for each of said participants;
- issuing means for issuing the respective non-valid passes to said participants; and
- validating means for validating said non-valid pass for such a participant upon the participant's arrival at, or proximate an event venue, thereby accrediting said participant, wherein the validating means includes:

- means for updating the accreditation status of the participant in the accreditation system;
- and
- means for securing the pass in a security pouch.

6. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising:

- for foreign participants and before arrival of said participants, means for sending a bulk visa request to an Immigration Authority; and
- means for receiving a visa status from said Immigration Authority, allowing said validated pass to serve as a visa.

7. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising:

- means for ascribing an accreditation class to each of said participants; and
- means for ascribing privileges to each of said accreditation classes.

8. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said apparatus is a distributed system comprising interconnected servers and workstations.

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9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-valid passes issued to the participants form a first portion of a valid pass and the participants are associated with organisations, and wherein the method comprises the steps of:

producing non-valid passes by the accreditation system for said organisations, wherein such a non-valid pass for an organisation forms a second portion of a valid pass; and

issuing the non-valid passes to said organisations, so that the organisations may distribute the second portions to selected ones of the participants associated with the respective organisations, wherein the validating in step e) uses both the first and second portions of the pass.

10. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the non-valid passes issued to the participants form a first portion of a valid pass and the participants are associated with organisations;

wherein the producing means is further for producing non-valid passes by the accreditation system for said organisations, wherein such a non-valid pass for an organisation forms a second portion of a valid pass; and

wherein the issuing means is further for issuing the non-valid passes to said organisations, so that the organisations may distribute the second portions to selected ones of the participants associated with the respective organisations, wherein the validating means uses both the first and second portions of the pass.